



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THIRD CO-DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN METH CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a third co-defendant pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

**Juan Carlos Fraire-Perez**, 22, a Mexican national living in Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to charges contained in a June 21, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Fraire-Perez** admitted that he conspired to distribute five grams or more of methamphetamine between May 1 and June 7, 2005.

**Fraire-Perez** is the third co-defendant to plead guilty in this case.

**Francisco Montantes**, 29, a Mexican national living in Kansas City, and **Steven L. Morris**, 24, of Independence, pleaded guilty to their roles in the conspiracy on Sept. 7 and 8, 2005, respectively.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, the co-defendants may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph M. Marquez. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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